December 1991, the period for which the data is currently available, is given below:

Commodity Group	April-December 1991 (Rs. Crores)
1. Plantations	1041
2. Agricultural & allied products	3059
3. Marine Products	989
4. Ores & Minerals	1640
5. Leather & manufactures	2237
6. Gems & Jewellery	4739
7. Sports goods	70
8. Chemicals & related products	3291
9. Engineering goods	3260
10. Electronics & computer software	393
11. Textiles	7298
12. Handicrafts	428
13. Carpets	865
14. Petroleum Products	645
15. Unclassified	377
	Total: 30332

As may be seen from above, the export of Agricultural & allied products, ores and minerals, and Engineering goods amounted to Rs. 3059 crores, Rs. 1640 crores and Rs. 3260 crores respectively. However, it needs to be mentioned that the primary products (Plantations, Agriculture and Ores and Minerals) accounted for about 19% of our total exports while manufactures accounted for 81% of our total exports.

(c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced in July/August, 1991, aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. Barring essential imports of sensitive items like POL, fertilizers etc., all other imports of raw materials and components were linked to export performance. REP licences were replaced by Exim Scrips. The advance licences as an instrument of export promotion has been strengthened, by reducing discretionary controls and delays. The procedure'for import of capital goods has been strengthened. The EPZ and 100% EOU Schemes have been re-vamped. A number of export and import items have been decanalised. Exporters have been allowed to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. These steps have been further strengthened by the partial convertibility of Rupee and reduction in import tariff ratqs. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilaterial discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc.

Reduction in cost of curing of tobacco

3356. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that the cost of curing of tobacco accounts for 30 per cent of total cost of its production;

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made to find an alternative fuel to reduce the cost of curing: and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry, tried solar energy as an alternative fuel but found it uneconomical as initial investment on barn is high and during night one has to depend on coal or wood. The Institute also designed a low-profile barn which saves fuel by about 25%. Such low-profile bam is already popular in some areas. The Institute has also conducted some trials on barns with insulated roofs but these are at an experimental stage.